

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

24 September 1959

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NOT RELEVANT  
TO BAY OF PIGS

TENSION WITHIN THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT

There seems to be a growing division within the Cuban Government between moderates such as Treasury Minister Lopez Fresquet and leftist elements.

Leaders of the extremists are Raul Castro, commander of the armed forces, and Ernesto Guevara, a close Fidel Castro associate who reportedly will

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direct Cuba's industrial planning program. The exposure of new antigovernment plots probably tends to strengthen the extremists' position.

Recent reports that Prime Minister Fidel Castro planned to replace Lopez and other moderate ministers have not materialized, and in mid-September Lopez appeared confident of retaining his post. With National Bank President Felipe Pazos and Economy Minister Regino Boti, he represents a group determined to keep the Cuban economy from collapsing under its present heavy strains. The prime minister has evidently begun to realize that he needs competent economic guidance if his planned reforms are to succeed; these needed economic advisers provide--at least for the present--a counterbalance to the apparently growing power of his brother and Guevara.

Raul Castro and Guevara continue their efforts to arouse anti-US feeling and to sponsor activities which promote Soviet strategy. Raul recently spoke in support of convening a Latin American "people's congress"--a project for which considerable groundwork was laid during discussions by Communists and other Latin American leftists in Santiago de Chile in August.

They may plan the congress to coincide with the 11th Inter-American Conference of the Organization of American States scheduled to be held in Quito, Ecuador, in February 1960.

Latin American delegates to the Soviet 21st party congress in Moscow early this year resolved to hold a "people's Congress" ostensibly dedicated to some popular cause which could be used to attract the sponsorship of popular leaders like Fidel Castro. The sponsors would be drawn into association with the Communists, who would remain in the background guiding the congress in an anti-imperialist, "anti-US direction.

An intensified campaign against US military bases and missions was another important tactic in the action program adopted in Moscow. Whether by coincidence or design, Ernesto Guevara has picked up this theme. In one of his frequent speeches since his return from an extended tour of neutralist countries in the Middle East and Asia, he declared that the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay makes Cuba a target for nuclear attacks and argued that Cuba should pursue a neutralist foreign policy.

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